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No. 17,126.

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HONGKONG, TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 1918.

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I—Authorized Capital \$5,000,000
Subscribed Capital \$4,500,000
Paid-up Capital \$2,457,500
II—Fire Funds..... 3,687,047
III—Life & Annuity Funds..... 17,687,590
Sinking Fund Account..... 128,230
\$23,970,387
Revenue Fire Branch..... \$2,381,456
Life and Annuity Branches..... 9,141,683
Revenue Marine Department..... 337,229
Other Receipts..... 478,940
\$25,339,298

The Accumulative Funds of the various
Branches are separately invested, and, by
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the claims under the respective Depart-
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11.00 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Every 15 minutes.
12.45 p.m. to 1.15 p.m. Every 10 minutes.
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Notes or by Cheques or Compondore order
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WONG FING WA, Manager
Hongkong, April 1, 1918.

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All the News of Hongkong and the Far East.

THE WAR. TO-DAY'S TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

BRITISH OFFICIAL REPORTS.
BRITISH LINE SLIGHTLY
ADVANCED.

LONDON, April 8.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig
reports:—
We advanced our line slightly,
during the night, on the south bank
of the Somme, eastward of Vire-sous-
Corbie.
We took a few prisoners north-
ward of the Somme, near Neuville-
Vitasse.
There was increased hostile arti-
llery activity during the night on the
whole battle-front.
There was heavy hostile gas shell-
ing between Lens and the La Bassée
Canal and also eastward of Arras-
tieres.

FRENCH OFFICIAL REPORTS.
SHARP FIGHTING AT CERTAIN
POINTS.

LONDON, April 8.
A French communiqué states:—
Our artillery stopped attempted
enemy attacks in the region of
Hargard and in Sauterne and caught
concentrations of troops at various
points of the front to the north of
Montdidier.
A strong German attack on the
right of the Meuse and north-east
of Hill 344 was repulsed after sharp
fighting.
The enemy's losses were import-
ant. We took 20 prisoners.
Seven aeroplanes and two balloons
were brought down.
Five tons of bombs were dropped
on cantonments in the Boye region.

**VIOLENT ARTILLERY ACTIONS ON
FRENCH FRONT.**
LONDON, April 8.
A French communiqué states:—
The night was marked by violent
artillery actions, notably on the left
bank of the Oise.

AMIENS STILL THE ENEMY GOAL.
Paris, April 8.
A semi-official message states that
so far, there is no reason to regard
the German attack at Hill 344 yester-
day, as indicating a forthcoming
offensive on this sector.
The Chauny-Buris affair does not
seem to point to any new departure
of a general nature.
A great mass of German reserves
is still moving towards Amiens
which is still the goal of the German
High Command, though the latter
is momentarily forced to interrupt
the forward movement, owing to the
exhaustion and heavy losses of his
troops.

**LONG-RANGE BOMBARDMENT OF
PARIS.**
ONE GUN BURSTS.
Paris, April 8.
An official report states:—
The bursting of one of the long-
range guns bombarding Paris, which
is confirmed from a sure source,
occurred on the 25th ultimo.
A lieutenant and nine men were
killed.
The long-range bombardment con-
tinued yesterday, but there were no
victims.

BOLO'S FINAL APPEAL REJECTED.
Paris, April 8.
President Poincaré has rejected
Bolo Pasha's final appeal.
(Continued on Page 5.)

PRESS CORRESPONDENTS' REPORTS.
GERMANS ASSEMBLING IMMENSE
NUMBERS OF GUNS.
ENEMY MOWED DOWN BY
NEW ZEALANDERS.
LONDON, April 8.
Reuter's Correspondent at British
Headquarters, in continuation of a
message telegraphed on the evening
of the 7th instant, says:—
The counter-attack at Arleux
Wood on the 6th was brilliant,
practically re-establishing our posi-
tion along the old line. We took 20
prisoners and a dozen machine-guns.
Casualties among German officers
have been exceptionally heavy in the
past fortnight; apparently because
they have been moving more freely
than heretofore among the men.
There has been also such a toll of
non-coms. that a general comb-out
of the older classes is progressing to
replace them.
Three attacks against the New
Zealanders proved horribly costly to
the enemy. On each occasion the
New Zealanders continued firing with
Lewis guns until the rapidly thinning
waves were sufficiently close. Then
they bombed them furiously with
hand grenades. It is easy to believe
their assurance that the Boches dis-
liked this form of resistance.
Their dead are lying like cornstalks
at harvest time before the New
Zealanders' positions.
The Germans are bringing im-
mense numbers of guns of every
calibre into the struggle, but we are
combating them pretty adequately.
Thus last evening a heavy bom-
bardment broke out east of Villers
and Bretonneux. We have reasons
to believe it is preliminary to an
infantry attack. We retaliated with
such intensity that the enemy bom-
bardment died down, with nothing
transpiring.
A captured airman attributes our
greater aerial activity to the greater
numbers and superior qualities of
British machines. Consequently the
Germans cannot afford to risk flying
over our territory to any great
extent.
The enemy is employing machine-
guns, operated by trained teams, in
very large numbers, and is also
losing them in very large numbers.

INTIMATIONS

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Hongkong Mar. 28, 1918.

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APPLICATION has been made to the Directors of this Company to issue to WALTER DOUGLAS GRAHAM a Certificate of Sixty Shares in the Company or other Certificate or Certificates in lieu thereof upon the statement that the Original Certificate No. 1809 for shares numbered 2877/28834 and dated 11th January, 1909, has been LOST or DESTROYED. AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that if within 30 days from the date hereof no claims or representation in respect of such Original Certificate is made to the Directors they will proceed to deal with such application for a Certificate.

M. MANUK,
Secretary.
Dated 4th day of April, 1918.

NOTICE

HAVING RESUMED charge of my Business carried on under the style of Messrs. S. C. ISMAIL & CO., I, the undersigned, hereby give notice that from this date all Cheques on Bankers, Contracts and other matters in connection with the Business of the Firm will be SIGNED by me.

S. C. ISMAIL.
Hongkong, April 3, 1918.

DAIRY FARM NEWS.

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Hongkong, March 20, 1914.

INTIMATIONS

HONGKONG LAWN TENNIS LEAGUE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the above League will be held in the Hongkong Cricket Club Pavilion on THURSDAY, April 11th, at 5.15 P.M. Clubs interested are requested to send representatives.

F. LINDSAY WOODS,
Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, April 8, 1918.

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7311 "The Bing Boys' Selection (Band) Parts 1 and 2 ... "
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7320 "High School Cadets, March Boys of the Dardanelles ... "
7314 "Cossack March ... " (The Soldiers' Return, March ... "

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COURTSHIPS IN THE WAR ZONE.

AN ENTENTE OF HEARTS.

Mr. Alexander M. Thompson, the well-known Labour writer, contributes the following article to the "Daily Mail":—

The soldier and the girl. It is an old, old story, old as the old courtyard of the old building in the old French town where the scene was enacted; but the change of time has given it a new meaning. For the old French garden of the old French house had become the pleasure of a club for British officers, and though the girl was French the soldier was English.

Like the maid in the nursery song, who "was in the garden hanging out the clothes," and he, an officer's batman, was collaborating. It did not appear to be a "useful collaboration." On her side the work consisted mostly of remonstrant cries, explanatory gestures, and plentiful giggles; on his side there was a steady, stolid cheerfulness of "clumsiness whose consistency suggested guile."

To the superficial and sentimental observer they would have seemed to be transmitting the prosaic labour into conventional romance. As a matter of fact, between themselves, they were making history. They were perfecting the Cordial Understanding. They were broadening the base of the great democratic alliance. They were laying concrete floors for the structure of the future League of Nations.

In this very humanitarian work many thousands of French maidens and British Tommies in this north-east corner of France are now strenuously engaged. They are throwing their hearts into it. They are grappling it, as one may say, with both hands.

You shall see a boy of merry French girls marching—or rather dancing—arm in arm to work in a British military factory, and you shall hear them singing "Tipperary" or "Blighty is the place for me" with a correctness of accent which reflects infinite credit on the painstaking patience and thoroughness of their British military instructors.

These fantastically cosmopolitan factories contain also Hindu, Singapore, and Chinese workers, who watch the proceedings with benevolent grins. There are also German prisoners, who do not look equally pleased.

For assuredly this phenomenon will, in the long run, have consequences. "Do many of our Tommies marry these French girls?" "I asked my British military chauffeur."

"How many have you heard of?" "I pressed."

"Oh, I should think I've known quite a dozen among my own pals," he replied. Which obviously means a job.

Mrs. SMITH OF RICARDY.
The fusion of French mental alertness and vivacity with British practical stolidity will benefit both peoples. Then think of the educational effect. Imagine Mrs. Jeanne Smith, the Pearly Farmer's daughter, installed in Oldham or Pudsey among the wondering sisters, cousins, and aunts of ex-Corporal Smith. Fancy the surprises awaiting Grandpa and Grandma Durand of St. Omer on their first perilous adventure of travel overseas and their joy on finding that their son-in-law has not in the case of their daughter followed the habit of the English in selling their wives, at Smithfield.

Conceive the shocks and delights of Grandpa and Grandma Smith when they in their turn heard the voyage of discovery to the Continent—the strange, wicked land of which they would otherwise have known nothing exact or positive except that the natives boxed with their feet and fed on frogs.

As for the other couples who decide to remain in France, they will settle the French population problem. Only think of it: French wives and British husbands! Oh, is, is! I referred just now to the begetting of consequences; this phenomenon will beget heaps and heaps of interesting and most promising little consequences. The prospect simply dazzles the faculties and confounds reckoning.

There are other factors at work in this war-region to establish cordial understanding between the democracies of France and Britain, factors which will do more to realize international working-class solidarity than was ever dreamt of in Karl Marx's philosophy—more, perhaps, than the promised visit to Paris this week of the Labour deputation which is to pave the way to an International Socialist Conference.

But sufficient for the day is the brightness of the vista I have suggested.

HERR BALLIN'S CRIES: "CASSE- COU!"

Herr Ballin, director of the formerly prosperous Hamburg-America Line, has just made a despairing attempt in the German press to open the eyes of the pan-Germanist fanatics to the suicidal folly of their treachery. He reminds them that the ruthless submarine warfare has brought, as he predicted it would, the United States into the war without any corresponding advantage. His fears were ridiculed, but they have been amply justified. Not satisfied with turning American animosity into enmity, the Germans, as Herr Ballin bluntly declares, changed English indifference into active, burning hatred. "Do the pan-Germans realize what that means? What are we to do if the Allies close their ports to our vessels after the war?" asks Herr Ballin, and echoes answers, "What?" "Where is Germany to obtain the raw materials that are essential to her industries?" Echo answers, "Where?"

Herr Ballin also asks how German products are to be exported after the war. How, indeed? It is a question the Tirpitzites seem to have overlooked. Without ships maritime trade is impossible, yet they have made the sinking of merchant shipping a whole art of war. Germany has lost the bulk of her fleet, and the loss has not been made up by new vessels, the German shipyards having been monopolized by work for the navy. On the other hand, there will be no ships on charter after the war, as all those remaining effort will then be requisitioned by the different Governments for national service. In short, Herr Ballin's outspoken onslaught on pan-Germanism proves that Germany has tumbled into the pit which the Tirpitzites dug for the Allies.

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Patent Slip, No. 1, Kowloon	510	60	10'	8'	2'
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HUGHES & HOUGH,
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Hongkong, Apr. 8, 1918. 307

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P. W. D.

Hongkong, Mar. 28, 1918. 277

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Hongkong, Mar. 1, 1918. 193

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MOTOR YACHT
Built 1916, had very little usage,
Hull Tankwood
Length, water-line 29' 8"; over all 30'
Beam 7'
Draft 3'

Motor "Scripps", Heavy duty 14 H.P.
Complete with Lavatory, Refrigerator,
a Suit of Sails, and all Accessories.
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Hongkong, Jan. 9 1918. 27

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No. 3 CANTON VILLAS, Kowloon.

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IMMEDIATE ENTRY, four very desirable SHOPS situated in Ice House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.

For rent and other particulars apply to the Manager, Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd., 48 Connaught Road Central.

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A FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon. Four roomed houses in Kowloon.

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AMERICAN CABLES.

JAPAN TO SELL SHIPS TO AMERICA.

[NAVY COMMUNICATION SERVICE TO MANILA PAPERS.]

Washington, April 2.

The War Trade Board has issued a statement reading in part as follows:

"Negotiations between the United States and Japanese shipbuilders have resulted in an agreement to purchase 13 Japanese ships of about 100,000 tons deadweight capacity, which will be added to the United States Shipping Board fleet within a few months."

"These vessels are large modern steamers and with the exception of one, none are more than two years old. Delivery at American ports will begin not later than May and will be finished in September."

"A progressively higher price per ton is probable according to the month of delivery as there is a premium on early delivery."

"In return, the War Trade Board has agreed to deliver to Japanese shipbuilders a corresponding amount of steel for shipbuilding, ten for ton. Further negotiations are in progress to secure from Japanese shipbuilders 200,000 additional tons of construction in return for steel."

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GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE MEAT INDUSTRY.

WASHINGTON, April 3.

President Wilson has named a Commission to shape the national policy governing the production, sale and distribution of meats during the war. This action is in accordance with a recommendation of Food Administrator Hoover, who has noted the favorable results of the policy of regulating the steel, copper and zinc industries.

The Meat Commission consists of Secretary of Agriculture Houston, the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, the chairman of the United States Tariff Board, Secretary of Labor Wilson and Mr. Hoover.

Mr. Hoover outlined the new plan in a letter to the President in which he said: "This change in policy may take the form of a more definite direction of the large packers or even government operation of all packing establishments."

CONTROL OVER LABOUR.

WASHINGTON, April 3.

The United States Employment Service has divided the country into 13 districts, thus facilitating the maintenance of equilibrium in the country's labour supply. Steady employment is assured by the federal dissemination of information as to localities where labour shortages exist, thus enabling the shifting of labour to the places where it is most needed.

MONEY FOR SYRIAN RELIEF.

NEW YORK, Mar. 30.

The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief reports its February receipts as \$84,518, making the total to date \$8,240,168.

HUN'S JEWEL ISLE.

INTERRED SWINDLER'S BOTTLE FULL OF DIAMONDS.

Among the adventures of German origin who have passed from the by-ways of the City of London into the safe keeping of an internment camp recently is a man known as Albert Edward Heyr, originator of a "treasure hunt" which ended disastrously for several people in 1914.

Heyr, who was born in Germany and lived most of his life in South Africa, had a bold imagination. During the winter of 1913-14 it was whispered in the City that one or two people were about to make a fortune by investment in a private syndicate formed to find a whisky bottle "full of diamonds." Here and there one could be found who had ventured £5 in the syndicate and "would not part with it for £100."

The value of the diamonds was variously estimated at one, or two, or three millions.

These stories had their origin in a yarn told by the German South-African Heyr. It began with a journey through the trackless desert of South-West Africa and the discovery of a dying Boer. With his last breath the Boer confided in Heyr the story of the famous bottle, and the usual "plan." The bottle contained the fruits of a lifetime of hoarding and the plan pointed to an island off the coast of German South-West Africa, as the hiding-place.

A TREASURE SHIP.

There are, of course, laws framed in South Africa to prevent the export of diamonds without payment of a tax. Hence the hold which Heyr's story had on the imagination of City speculators.

The island, it was asserted, belonged neither to Great Britain nor to Germany, though either might lay claim to it were it known that it contained a bottle full of diamonds. To secure the treasure a vessel must be found and equipped, armed if necessary; the hold Heyr must be given command and the journey must be undertaken by men "willing to risk anything."

Such was the story. The fruits of it were seen when a young man of wealth was persuaded to borrow money on a revolutionary interest in an estate and finance the expedition. He lost both the money and the diamonds. Heyr went to South Africa just before the war and again after war broke out. On both occasions he returned without the diamonds, but was well furnished with money.

Oddly enough Heyr was one of the associates of "Gerald Hamilton," the young man who has been recently interned after serving a criminal sentence of two years. He knew the same circle of shady financiers and German agents, men and women, and visited the Deere House flat at which "Hamilton" was arrested.

Some of Hamilton's own money is said to have gone into Heyr's schemes. One of Heyr's chief accomplices is now in Spain, whether he fled after the break-up of his circle.

Guard the Children from Spring Colds

Spring is a trying season—one day is warm the next is wet and chilly—unless the mother is on her guard the little ones are seized with colds. Baby's Own Tablets, the "Canadian" children's remedy, are mothers' best friend in preventing or banishing colds. They act as a gentle laxative, keeping the bowels and stomach free and sweet. An occasional dose will prevent colds, or if a cold does come on "suddenly" the prompt use of the Tablets will quickly cure it. The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers, or by mail at 60 cents a box from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., 90 South Broadway, New York.

THE NEW PHENOL REMEDY.

THERAPION No. 1

THERAPION No. 2

THERAPION No. 3

THERAPION No. 4

THERAPION No. 5

THERAPION No. 6

THERAPION No. 7

THERAPION No. 8

THERAPION No. 9

THERAPION No. 10

THERAPION No. 11

THERAPION No. 12

THERAPION No. 13

THERAPION No. 14

THERAPION No. 15

THERAPION No. 16

THERAPION No. 17

THERAPION No. 18

THERAPION No. 19

THERAPION No. 20

SAN FRANCISCO A FREE PORT.

SCHEME ADVOCATED BY COMMERCE COMMITTEE.

The committee appointed by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to investigate whether San Francisco should be made a free port, and of which John Clausen was chairman, has reported in favour of such a recommendation. "The universal testimony appears to be," says the report, "that a free port has aided immensely in quickly building up both the foreign and domestic trade of every harbour where it has been properly established."

Recounting the experience of other cities that have had free port areas, the report calls attention to the fact that the city of Hamburg, by virtue of its being a free port, had in 1913 surpassed London in its foreign trade by \$100,000,000, and far exceeded Liverpool in imports, notwithstanding the fact that the English cities had a certain natural advantage in being part of a free trade country. Hamburg's total foreign commerce, says the report, was only \$8,000,000 less than that of New York.

Other cities mentioned as illustrations of the successful operation of the free port plan were Hongkong, which, the report says, surpassed New York in clearing foreign trade tonnage several years before the war; Singapore, which advanced rapidly as a collecting and distributing centre, and Copenhagen, which, as free port, won the trade of the Baltic area.

ADVANTAGES TO BE GAINED.

What free ports are and how they are expected to operate is summarized in part as follows:

WATSON'S FORMAZONE

(REGISTERED)

A Refreshing, Invigorating and Palatable Drink.
Particularly suited for Tennis, Shooting and Bathing Parties.

Pints \$1.20 Per Doz.
Splits 70 Cts. " "

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

TELEPHONE No. 616.

To-day's Advertisements

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

AN INTERIM DIVIDEND OF 8% (\$4.00 per Share) has been declared payable on the 15th instant. TRANSFER BOOKS will be CLOSED from the 15th to the 18th instant, both days inclusive.

DOUGLAS LARRAIK & CO.,

General Managers,
DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP CO., LTD.
Hongkong, April 9, 1918.

ASAHI BEER

For a healthy and refreshing drink for early Summer, there is nothing so good as ASAHI BEER.

It is made from the choicest hops the world produces, hence its wholesomeness and absolute purity.

The best drink for health, enjoyment and economy.

No drink delights the connoisseur more or does him so much good.

AGENTS—

MITSUI BUSSAN KAISHA.

THE CALENDAR.

GENERAL MEMORANDA.

THURSDAY, April 11.—All gifts for the Tombola to be sent in by this date.
6.15 p.m.—Annual General Meeting of Hongkong Tennis League.
TUESDAY, April 18.—Noon—Auction of Theatre Seats for St. George's Day performance.
SATURDAY, April 20.—3 p.m.—Marathon Race.
TUESDAY, April 23.—St. George's Day Celebrations.

NOTICE.

HIGH-CLASS PRINTING

AND

BOOK BINDING

DONE AT

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BOOKS & PAMPHLETS SPECIAL

Prospectuses, Trade Circulars, Programmes, Menus, etc. etc. Artistically Arranged and Carefully Printed.

Clear Proofs and prompt delivery guaranteed.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd. announces an interim dividend of 8 per cent. (\$4) per share.

The Medical Officer's return for the 48 hours ended last night shows three cases of enteric fever, two British and one Japanese.

The Seims-Cury firm of railway engineers has offered a ransom of \$20,000 for the freedom of their engineer, Mr. Kyle, who was captured by bandits in Honan some weeks ago.

The "Biskhri" festival, the New Year of the Sikhs, will be celebrated at the Sikh Temple, Hongkong, on Saturday next, and the Temple authorities ask that employers and heads of departments concerned grant their Sikh employees a holiday on that date.

Canada seems likely to be invaded this year by Europeans from Asia. Owing to the restrictions on travel to Europe, large numbers of people, not only from Hongkong but from many European centres of population in the East are arranging to spend the summer in the more invigorating climate of Canada.

WEDDING.

DUNCAN SCOTT.

At Union Church this morning, the Rev. Kirk Macdonald officiating, the wedding took place of Mr. Robert Duncan, of Taikoo Dock, and Miss Catherine Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Scott, also of Taikoo.

Mr. H. McFarish officiated as best man and the bridesmaids, who carried bouquets of roses, were Miss Lottie Scott and Miss Madge Scott.

The bride wore a dress of white tulle with full train and carried a shower bouquet of white roses and caryophylls.

After the ceremony, a reception was held at the Hongkong Hotel. The couple received many handsome and costly presents.

ORGAN RECITAL AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL.

The Organ Recital given by Mr. Denman Fuller, F.R.C.O., L.R.A.M., at the Cathedral, last evening, was well attended.

The programme was the same as that rendered by Mr. Fuller on the occasion of the opening of the rebuilt organ and the organist displayed the same mastery of execution and power over the instrument that characterised the former recital, especially his playing of "The Curfew" (E. J. Hummel) and his own composition, "Out of the Past," which, had the recital been held in another building, would have brought Mr. Fuller something in the nature of an ovation.

In addition to the former programme, Mrs. Muriel's name was added. Her rendering of "Abide with me" (S. Liddell) was everything that could be desired and a more sympathetic interpretation of this beautiful composition could hardly be desired. Mrs. Muriel was equally satisfying in her singing of Sullivan's "God shall wipe away all tears."

Half way through the programme, a hymn was sung during which a collection was taken in aid of the Organ Fund.

"ST. GEORGE'S DAY" AT CANTON.

We are asked to announce that a special "St. George's Day" Fund is being raised in Canton in aid of Allied War Charities. All Englishmen residing in Canton and district are invited to subscribe. It is proposed to hand over the total amount collected to the Canton War Charities Committee to be allocated to the various funds as that Committee thinks fit, but any donation may be earmarked for any particular fund.

Subscriptions should be sent to C. A. Peel, c/o Dodwell & Co., Ltd., Canton.

THE EPIDEMIC.

For the week ended April 6th the total number of cases of cerebro-spinal fever in the Colony was 80. There were 60 deaths. All the cases were Chinese but one—a Portuguese. The week's total shows a satisfactory drop compared with the preceding week.

The return for Sunday and Monday, shows 21 cases and 19 deaths in the 48 hours.

THE FORTY YEAR TEST.

An article must have exceptional merit to survive for a period of forty years. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy was first offered to the public in 1872. From a small beginning it has grown in favour and popularity until it has attained a world-wide reputation. You will find nothing better for a cough or cold. Try it and you will understand why it is a favourite after a period of more than forty years. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy not only gives relief—it cures. For sale by all Chemists and Storekeepers.

HONGKONG WAR CHARITIES.

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING.

A meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong War Charities was held yesterday evening at the City Hall. H.E. the Governor presided, and others present included:—The Hon. Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., the Hon. Mr. D. Landale, the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, the Hon. Mr. Lau Chu-pak, Mr. N. J. Stubb, Mr. H. W. Looker, the Hon. Mr. E. R. Hallifax (Hon. Secretary), Mr. H. C. Sandford, Mr. W. L. Fattenden, S. E. Dodwell, E. V. D. Farr, A. R. Lowe, H. A. Cartwright, A. Silu-Netto, Chai Kai-ming, Ng Hon-tze, Professors Middleton Smith and J. D. Wright, and the Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald.

HON. MR. E. H. SHARP, K.C.

The Hon. Mr. E. H. SHARP said that the present Executive Committee had been responsible for the distribution of the Fund for more than two years. That was to say, since the beginning of January, 1916, when the Prince of Wales' Fund was closed. He had now to submit their report and statement of accounts, which were already in their hands, covering the whole period up to the 15th of last month. As to the receipts, the accounts showed that altogether a total of \$698,000, or, practically, seven lakhs, had been raised during that period for War Charities and distributed among some sixty objects connected with the war, excepting a balance in the bank in London and Hongkong. In addition to that total, Sir Paul Chater was making his yearly collection amongst the several companies and firms. It was not finished yet, but so far he had collected \$165,000, and hoped to get two lakhs, as compared with the \$145,000 from the same source last year. For that splendid collection they were not only indebted to the traditional generosity of Hongkong firms, but also to the efforts of Sir Paul Chater. (Hear, hear.) The Fund would soon, therefore, reach the figure of a million dollars. (Applause.) So much for the receipts. As to the expenditure the Executive Committee, in distributing the money, had adopted three methods. First, direct allocations had been made by the Committee, and the great bulk of the money had been dealt with in that way. Secondly, there was the allocation to minor but, none the less, useful funds, and the distribution in this case had been left to the discretion of Mr. Murray Stewart. Thirdly, some subscriptions had been earmarked for particular objects by the individual givers. This was a comparatively small class, and it explained the smaller and unearmarked amounts appearing in the statement of accounts. With regard to the work of Mr. Stewart in London the Executive Committee very early found it necessary to have a representative in London. At this distance, especially with the present slow and irregular mails, it was impossible to keep in prompt touch with new developments or ascertain the practical usefulness of some objects. Mr. Stewart had done that for them and had done it very well. (Applause.) He had distributed altogether between two and three thousand pounds among minor war charities and in small sums. Mr. Stewart had also obtained information as to minor items and had helped immensely. He had, at first the assistance of Dr. Atkinson, but since the latter's death he had been doing the work alone. Mr. Stewart's present method of distribution, he thought, was well expressed in a letter which had been just received from him stating that times for forming new charities had passed and therefore he had distributed the funds confined to his care amongst old friends whose names he knew some, thing about. He (the speaker) thought that they would all say Mr. Stewart's selections were all that could be desired. He certainly did not spare himself any trouble. For example, the distribution of gifts in kind appearing in the account consisting mainly of tobacco and cigars he had made them all up into small parcels for each man and sent them round to carefully-chosen hospitals. That entailed a great deal of labour, and the thanks of the committee were due to Mr. Stewart for what he had done. (Applause.) With regard to the Committee's direct allocations, their principal object had been to distribute, as widely as possible, to useful objects and to select those funds for help which were doing the most immediate and practical good as distinguished from those which were making provision for after the war. Mr. Stewart's remarks applied to the Executive Committee. The Committee had endeavoured to find the best war charities and help them and the statement of accounts showed a fairly comprehensive list. Details of the allocations had been regularly published in the Press and therefore only the principal items in the statement of accounts needed any explanation. Their local clinics, of course, ranked first. They would find an item in that account—material for working parties—which amounted to something over

\$100,000. The Hongkong working parties were a branch of the Queen Mary's Needlework Guild with Lady May as President and Mrs. Stubb as Vice-President. The working parties consisted of practically all the ladies of the Colony, whose indefatigable labours had produced enormous quantities of useful articles which had been sent to the various Fronts and hospitals. Letters of thanks which had been received went to prove how invaluable those articles were. A very important matter was the shipment of those articles, and they had to thank the shipping companies, especially the Canadian Pacific Steamship Company and Messrs. Butterfield & Swire for their generous sending of those articles free of charge. (Hear, hear.) As regards the Royal Flying Corps Hospital, that hospital had been doing excellent work and they had to contribute \$200 a month to support the Hongkong ward which was started two years ago and which they had undertaken to maintain until the end of the war. They had also been giving, although not under promise to continue, £1,000 a year to the general funds of the Hospital. The item British Red Cross Fund, over £24,000, was the largest in the accounts and the amount was due to the "Our Day" collection. They did not add to that amount except what was specially earmarked. The last "Our Day" they raised over £18,000, as against £5,000 in the "Our Day" of 1916. (Hear, hear.) This was the largest sum yet produced by any "Day" effort, but it was hoped that this St. George's Day collection would beat it. The next big item was the Prisoners of War Fund, to which over £5,000 had been given. The various Prisoners of War arrangements in England at first overlapped, but they were now well organised under a Central Committee. Mr. Hallifax had received hundreds of post-cards from war prisoners, showing that without these parcels they would have been short of necessary food. There was only one other item which he thought he need refer to—the French Red Cross, to which they had given something over £2,300. That organisation was perhaps more in need than our British Red Cross. The remaining items spoke for themselves. The Executive Committee wished they were able to give more to the French Red Cross. The apportioning of the balance of the money was a problem which the Executive Committee had to solve as best it could. They would notice in the accounts there were comparatively few funds for sailors, either for the Navy or for the Merchant Service, which had also played so splendid a part in the war. To co-ordinate the few large and many small funds which previously existed in England King George's Fund for Sailors had been organized. The first report of that Fund had lately been published in the local Press and showed that the purpose was to help the various good institutions for the benefit of sailors in proportion to their needs. The first distribution included fifty of these institutions and they had a very favourable report of it. A substantial contribution from the Hongkong Fund would doubtless be made to it with the knowledge that the contribution would be used well and promptly. Finally, several members of the Committee had already gone, or were going, away. Mr. Anton had gone, and he (the speaker) would be leaving shortly under medical advice and would, therefore, be unable to continue to serve on the Executive Committee. The General Committee would be asked to elect an Executive Committee. The present Executive Committee felt that it was time that fresh blood was introduced into it.

HON. MR. P. H. HOLYOAK.

The Hon. Mr. P. H. HOLYOAK, in seconding the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, said he wished to endorse the remarks which had been made by Mr. Sharp as regards the sum which had been collected in the Colony which already, when coupled with the Prince of Wales' Fund, amounted to over a million dollars—a sum which he thought they would agree with him that the greatest call lay before them. The comparative health and safety which they owed in Hongkong showed that they owed a debt of gratitude to those who were fighting the grim battle of the British nation, and recognizing the tremendous conflict which was now being fought on French soil, they were desirous of pulling with greater efforts than ever before as some small recognition of the sacrifices made by the troops who were fighting on their behalf, because they could not do so, and because they were a small part of the Great Empire, whose one desire was to bring this war to a successful issue. (Applause.) Reference had been made to the work which had been done by the General Committee, and he thought that no tribute paid could be too high to the steady, self-sacrificing work which had been carried on by the Committee. (Applause.) The Vice-President had made reference to the help rendered by various shipping firms, but he had overlooked Messrs. Shaw, Tomes & Co., who not only forwarded cases free of charge but had assisted the Committee in various ways. He was sure it was an oversight on the previous speaker's part. Reference had also been made to the contribution made by the St. George's Society on "Our Day" and the forthcoming St. George's Day, and he was sure he was raising the senti-

ments of the St. George's Committee when he said that they wished the funds to be centralized. In all probability the funds realised on St. George's Day would be large. They would have been larger but for the curtailment of a part of the programme owing to the unfortunate visitation of cerebro-spinal meningitis. They desired that the money should be added to the common fund raised by the War Charities Committee so that it might be worthy of the Colony (Applause). With these few words he begged to second the report and accounts.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

HIS EXCELLENCY said:—I will ask you to adopt the report and accounts. We will proceed to the principal object of business for which the meeting has been called. This is to enlarge the General Committee, so that it may be thoroughly representative of all classes and sections in the Community. It is hardly necessary for me to read you the names of the existing General Committee. You are probably familiar with it. I have to save time I will read you the names of persons who, it is supposed, might fitly be added. It is not to any one of you to suggest other names if you so desire. The names that have been given are:—Messrs. S. H. Dodwell, E. M. Dyer, T. F. Hough, E. P. White, Adams, R. Hancock, R. Ormiston, R. Thompson, E. V. D. Farr, and Montagu Eda, and the following representatives of institutions and for Kowloon: Sir Charles Eliot, for the University; Mr. J. W. Graham, to represent Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company; Dr. Forsyth, to represent Kowloon; Mr. Reid, to represent Taikoo Dockyard; The Bishop, to represent the Church; Mr. Arpall, to represent the Indian Community; and Messrs. Hay, Sutherland and Lee to represent the histrionic art, which has rendered no little services to the Fund. Then there is the Press. It is a delicate institution to tamper with, so I will leave the nomination to the Press themselves. We would very much like to have a representative of St. George's Society and one from St. Andrew's Society. The object in having a thoroughly representative General Committee is to co-ordinate the special efforts which have been made and to prevent wasteful overlapping and the interference with monthly subscriptions. I suggest that as far as special efforts are concerned they should be limited to the four "Days" that have already been instituted, namely, "Our Day," "St. George's Day," "Heather Day," and possibly, "Kowloon Day" which was held for the first time, I think on the first day of this year. As I have said on many occasions, what the Executive Committee specially desire is a large monthly subscription list. At the present time the monthly subscription only reaches \$3,000 dollars at the most, and it may be noted that one thousand of that sum is contributed by two individuals and one firm. It is suggested that the representatives of the General Committee of the different sections of the community should make it their special care to promote monthly subscriptions. The men who undertake that duty will have a good deal of work on their hands. I take this opportunity of welcoming the American Red Cross Society—(Applause), and I think during the past few weeks we have learned to appreciate to the full what it is in this war to have America with us. In conclusion, on your behalf I wish to express our sorrow at the loss we have sustained in the untimely demise of Dr. Atkinson and our appreciation of the splendid work which he and Mr. Murray Stewart have done for us in London. I understand that the Chinese members of the General Committee have some proposals to make for extending the work amongst the Chinese Community—(Applause). I will be glad if members will suggest any other additional names either to the general list or to the representative members.

The Hon. Mr. HOLYOAK.—May I suggest the name of Mr. Sinclair to the histrionic section?

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

There is a luminous light in this room, and I may also suggest Mr. E. V. D. Farr. Mr. LAU CHU PAK then said:—I beg to propose that the gentlemen whose names I am going to read should be added. They are leading members of the Chinese Community, and they represent every section covering merchants, shipping companies, lawyers, etc. The following are the names:—Messrs. Tong Yat Chuen and his colleagues of the Tung Wah Hospital, Fung Ping Shang and his colleagues of the Po Leung Kuk, Chan San Son, Chan Lok Chuen, Lo Ket Ping, Wong Kam Fuk, Lo Cheung Shiu, Chan Yue Ting, Ip Sau Chi, Ip Lan Chuen, Chan Ten Shan, Tong Chai Ngan, Kam Yik Kai, Kam Chiu Nam, Leung Yik Kong, Li Shun Fan, Tse Yam Chi, Chan Sek Shuen, Au Chak-man, Lo Ching-ku, Cheuk-hing, Lai Ching-hing, Chan Fung-shang, Li Yik-min, Keung Tse-ming, Ho Wing, Mr. K. Lo, Mok Kom-tang, Ho Kwong, Leung Yan-po, S. W. To, Chan Kang-yue, Chan Chik-yue, R. H. Kowall, Sham Pak-ming, To Sze-tuan, Ma Yuk-shan, Chan Ha, Kwok Sok, Yau Sui-chi, Kwok Sui-lau, Fok Fo-ai, Li Siu-tan, Wong Siu-tong, So Fat-oi, Chan Cheuk-hing, Yip Po-shang, Lau Yiu-fong, Chan Chiu-sam, Chan Suet-nam, Lo Cho-chin, Chan Tse-fan, Wong Sue-han, Li Yan-chuen. I think these gentlemen will be of great assistance (Applause).

H. E. THE GOVERNOR: Our Society is supposed to be limited to British subjects, but this large number of names which have been suggested are gentlemen who, no doubt, will be formed into sub-committees, as they are British subjects in the Colony, and I think we may gratefully accept their services. As there are no more names to add—

Mr. H. A. Cartwright: I beg to propose Mr. A. W. Smith to the General Committee.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR: I will read the names. They are:—Sir Charles Eliot,

Messrs. S. H. Dodwell, R. M. Dyer, T. F. Hough, E. P. White, Adams, R. Hancock, R. Ormiston, R. Thompson, Sinclair, E. V. D. Farr, Montagu Eda, J. W. Graham, Reid, R. Rev. Dr. Landale, Dr. Forsyth, Messrs. Arpall, Hay, Sutherland, Lee, and A. W. Smith, and representatives to be hereafter created that is the members together with the long list of Chinese names which have been read by Mr. Lau Chu Pak. Have any members any suggestions to offer with respect to the election of representatives? The next item is for the General Committee to elect an Executive Committee.

It has been found that the Executive Committee is somewhat unwieldy. There will be more progress in future, than there have been, if the suggestion that representatives of different institutions of one or two districts in the Colony will busy themselves in an endeavour to increase the monthly subscription list. I would suggest that the Executive Committee consist of the following:—The Chairman, The Treasurer (Mr. N. J. Stubb), Secretary (Mr. E. R. Hallifax) and not more than five members. That the members I suggest should be the Rev. J. Kirk Macdonald, Mr. Dyer, Mr. A. H. Shelton and the two Chinese members of Council (the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook and the Hon. Mr. Lau Chu Pak). I think they will be considered a strong working Committee. I am sorry to hear that my learned friend on the right (the Hon. Mr. Sharp) does not see his way to continuing as Vice-Chairman. On medical advice he is soon to leave the Colony, only for the next few months, and in his absence I suggest the Hon. Mr. D. Landale. I put this suggestion before you, gentlemen, but you can suggest any alterations.

Mr. SKELTON: I intend going away for six months and, therefore, I think my name should be deleted.

H. E. THE GOVERNOR: Goodness knows what will happen to us in the next three months. I suggest that you continue to serve on the Committee until you go. I think we should appoint an assistant Treasurer, and Mr. H. C. Sandford, who has helped Mr. Stubb a lot during the past year, will be useful on the Executive Committee. Do you approve of the names I have read out? Thank you. There is no other business.

THE DEATH OF A SHIP'S OFFICER BY POISON.

VERDICT OF "DEATH BY MISADVENTURE"

The following is the verdict delivered by Mr. Dyer Ball this morning, in connection with the inquiry on the death of Mr. Michael van der Putte, Chief Officer of the s.s. *Van Warrigala*. Mr. Dyer Ball said: My verdict in this inquiry is that the deceased, Mr. van der Putte, died of cantharidin poisoning, the poison being self-administered without proper knowledge of the approximate dose to be taken. My verdict is "death by misadventure."

In the course of the inquiry, Mr. Stapleton, a chemist who is a "registered" person under the Pharmacy and Poison Ordinance 1918, has admitted that he sold on the 15th March, 1918, to Dr. Tong Cheng Toon, ship's surgeon of the S.S. *Van Warrigala* 20 grains of cantharidin which is a poison specified in Part I of Schedule A or that Ordinance, without complying fully with the provisions of Section 12 Ordinance which provides that a seller shall before delivery make an entry in the book kept for that purpose, stating in addition to other particulars the purpose for which the poison is required by the purchaser. It is highly important that this legislation should be complied with in every detail, and Mr. Stapleton has, in my opinion, rendered himself liable to a substantial penalty.

Dr. Tong Cheng Toon has said in his evidence that after receiving the poison he showed it to the Chief Officer, now deceased, and then removed the labels from the bottles and put it in the dispensary in an unlabelled bottle and did not put it under lock and key, although he was aware that the Chief Officer, not only himself, had a key to the dispensary, but also knew of the presence of the cantharidin on board. He had doubtless seen it kept and desired it for his own use. Dr. Tong Cheng Toon's conduct in this respect has in my opinion been marked by very grave negligence. It would be seen that the poison which caused the death of Mr. Michael van der Putte, came from the dispensary of the S.S. *Van Warrigala*, but I do not find it proved as a fact that Dr. Tong Cheng Toon supplied the poison to the deceased.

GOLF—LADIES' SECTION.

The final for the Wodehouse Cup was played off at Faaling on Saturday, 6th inst. Lady Bees Davies and Mrs. Maitland beating Mrs. Carlton and Mrs. Goodwin by 8 up and 2 to play.

The Captain's Cup is to be played at Happy Valley from 22nd to 27th April inclusive. Owing to shortness of Course 9/4 of handicap only is to be taken.

Messrs. Maitland and Pearson Shanghai in their Exchange report for week ending April 4, say:—Our stock of green and barometer at the 30,000,000, is \$11,000,000 higher than last week. The stock of Mexican and Chinese Dollars at \$15,570,000 is \$10,000 up.

TELEGRAMS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

THIRD WEEK OF THE OFFENSIVE.

AMERICAN REVIEW OF THE GREAT STRUGGLE.

SITUATION WILL REMAIN UNCERTAIN FOR SOME TIME.

New York, April 8. The War Department's Weekly Review states:—

The general strategic and tactical position of the Allies is becoming more favourable.

The enemy, at the opening of the third week of the offensive, is still far short of attaining his principal objectives. It is now evident that the German High Command contemplated overwhelming the British at the outset and driving a wedge between the French and British forces.

The enemy fully expected to achieve a decision in the course of one great battle.

The success of the plan depended on the ability to break through the British front and to advance so rapidly that the British and French reserves would not be able to arrive in time to close up the breach and restore the order of battle.

Evidence of the prisoners confirms the fact that the enemy hoped to gain the line of the Somme on the evening of the first day. As a matter of fact, he took ten days to cover ground which was expected to be overrun in 48 hours.

The stubbornness of the British resistance and the severe enemy casualties compelled the Germans to draw more heavily upon their reserves than they anticipated. The Germans are now throwing fresh forces into the battle in an effort to secure some limited objectives.

The Allied military machine under the leadership of Generalissimo Foch is working with precise smoothness, insuring the greatest economy, harmony and efficiency in the use of all forces.

The morale of the Allied troops remains high.

The German offensive has not spent itself and, owing to the enemy's determination to gain some sort of a success at any cost, the situation will continue uncertain for some time.

However, the general strategic and tactical position of the Allies is becoming more favourable.

Reports continue to indicate that the enemy contemplates an offensive in the Italian theatre, possibly along a broad front, including the entire northern sector from the upper Piave to Lake Garda.

AMERICAN TROOPS ENGAGED.

ACQUIT THEMSELVES SPLENDIDLY.

Paris, April 8. A despatch from the American Front states:—

The enemy on Friday evening attempted at two points a raid on American trenches.

The first attack was easily repulsed, while the second was allowed to approach close to the wire. Then a fire was opened by the Americans, whose infantry immediately leapt over the trenches and drove back their assailants. The first German trench was cleared, and the enemy was compelled to retire to support trenches.

American artillery replied to the very violent enemy artillery, silencing two German batteries.

GERMAN INTRIGUE IN MOROCCO.

PROPOSAL TO MASSACRE ALLIED SUBJECTS.

London, April 8. The Times Tangier Correspondent states that the Germans in Morocco have made proposals to Raisuli and other tribal leaders, that in the event of a German victory over France, they shall rise in revolt, massacre the Allied subjects, declare the independence of Morocco and nominate a pro-German Sultan.

HOME RULE FOR IRELAND.

A POSSIBLE CONDITION OF ADOPTION OF CONSCRIPTION.

London, April 8.

The Lobby Correspondents of the Daily Telegraph and the Morning Post state that the application of conscription in Ireland may be contingent upon the report of the Convention and the offer of Home Rule by the Government.

The Daily Chronicle implores the Government not to make a grant of Home Rule a condition of the adoption of conscription.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE GREAT STRUGGLE.

THE MOST CRITICAL DAYS OF THE WAR.

London, April 7. Reuter's Correspondent at French Headquarters, telegraphing on April 6 says:—In the second battle beginning on Thursday we held the enemy and repulsed him in most places with heavy losses with troops entering the battle on March 23.

The closing days of March were among the most critical of the war. The Germans had been stopped on the Oise and the Somme but confronting them between Montdidier and Moreuil was a mere cordon barring the way to Amiens. Troops were rallied from a sector hundreds of miles distant as fast as possible and engaged the enemy as soon as they detrained. The General, carrying a carbine, and the Staff had arrived and were scouting in the battle-field with only a few cavalry patrols between them and the Boche. A Staff Major was actually killed engaging the German mounted troops. The first reinforcements arrived on March 25, but the main body several days later. Meanwhile, the enemy was preparing a grand attack. The moment was most critical for on March 27 nine miles of the line were screened only by cavalry patrols and a few guns. The line was re-established on March 29th, but held by only three French Divisions. These had for four successive days to meet the shock of thirty enemy Divisions. It is a sober fact that for those four days the General with three Divisions held up ten times our numbers and there has been no finer military feat during the war. During the whole battle relief was impossible, yet fresh German Divisions were thrown in daily.

The enemy is fully exploiting his superiority in numbers by attacking increasing strength also, always with fresh troops. As soon as an enemy Division gains its objective it is withdrawn and its place taken by another. A retiring Division is reinforced, rests a few days, then is again sent to battle. Hence within a week the First Guards Division was engaged on two different sectors.

We still hold essentially the line we held on March 23. The enemy hold Moreuil and a number of villages on the west bank of the Aisne but they are dominated by the heights we retain. We hold Grivesnes and the chateau despite determined attacks on March 28th, 29th and 31st. This fight is typical of what is occurring daily. The village was held by five hundred French infantry men, commanded by a Colonel, who blocked the windows of the chateau with mattresses and took up a rifle to help the defenders. They repulsed three regiments of the First Prussian Guards Division, accounted the best in the German Army. The enemy came on in waves, pushed and fed by thick columns of infantry. The French fought them from tree to tree of the park back to the walls of the chateau, whereupon the Colonel ordered a counter-attack and the Poilus, crying *Vive la France*, charged. After a hideous melee among the trees, they drove the Germans from the park. Fighting against similar odds occurred on those four days along the whole Aisne front. The enemy halted on the 31st for a breather and the attacks were renewed on the 4th inst. with fifteen Divisions, including the Guards and Brandenburgers. The onslaught was repulsed with a slight loss of ground little more than the villages of Emilly, Raineval and Saurville. To-day, the enemy is quiescent excepting for artillery activity, but the lull is expected to be of short duration.

The Press Bureau announces that Mr. Lloyd George has sent a message to the Viceroy of India as follows:—

At this time, when the intention of Germany's rulers to establish tyranny not only throughout Europe, but in Asia, has become transparently clear, I ask the Government and people of India to redouble their efforts. Thanks to the heroism of the British Armies and their Allies, the enemy's attempt in the West is being checked, but to prevent the menace spreading eastward every lover of freedom and law must play his part. I have no doubt that India will add to the laurels already won and equip itself on an even greater scale than now at a bulwark which will save Asia from the tide of oppression and disorder which it is the enemy's object to achieve.

The Viceroy has replied that:—All India is stirred to the depths by the noble sacrifices of the British people in the cause of the world's freedom and the stern and unalterable resolution that those sacrifices evince. India, anxious yet confident, fully realizes the great issues at stake and your trumpet call at this crisis will not fall on deaf ears. I feel confident that it will awake the Princes and people's leaders to a keener sense of the grave danger which, stemmed in Europe, now threatens to move eastwards. I look to them for the fullest effort and fullest sacrifice to safeguard the soil of their Motherland against all the attempts of a cruel and unscrupulous enemy and to ensure the final triumph of the ideals of justice and honour for which the British Empire stands.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation, says:—

Our aeroplanes, watching the enemy movements, reported a hostile concentration southward of the Somme. Large formations immediately went out in the rain, and dropped over five hundred bombs and fired fifty thousand rounds on the assembled infantry.

We brought down fifteen and drove down eleven enemy machines. Sixteen of ours are not yet located, many of which doubtless were forced to land behind our lines owing to the difficulty of finding their aerodromes in the heavy rain. The Canadian airmen are doing most valuable work in the present battle.

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SIGNS OF A NEW THRUST ON BRITISH FRONT.

London, April 8.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing on the evening of the 7th, says:—

Local fighting has continued at various places along the British battle-front and there are sundry signs that the enemy is about to thrust again on a big scale.

By the recent fighting north of the Somme the enemy endeavoured to improve his positions and possibly to secure a better jumping-off place. Between Menil and Bucquoy the German positions are very unfavourable to artillery movement, therefore there should be a big push to develop this region and only by such could a great concentric attack upon Amiens be carried out.

The infantry would soon outpace their gun supports if the enemy achieved further success. So far, however, their attempts have been almost entirely repulsed, invariably with very heavy losses.

The attack of the 5th inst. was carried out by four Divisions in waves having only a limited objective.

Since the enemy heavily gas-shelled Auchonvillers before attacking and as the staff hangs for days it is unlikely he would have employed it if he hoped to occupy the place.

Last night, after twice laying an intense barrage to a considerable depth, the Germans attempted to advance north of Auchonvillers but were smothered by artillery and were unable to advance.

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RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

COMMISSARIES' NEW GRIEVANCE.

Petrograd, April 7.

The Council of Commissaries in a manifesto accuses Japan of striving to crush the Republic and seize Siberia and declares that Japan is a deadly enemy of the Republic. It says that the Council has demanded an explanation and warns the Allies that their replies will greatly influence the Council's foreign policy.

NEW AMBASSADORS APPOINTED.

M. Joffe has been appointed Ambassador to Berlin and M. Kamenet to Vienna.

THE SILVER MARKET.

London, April 7. Silver is quoted at 45 $\frac{1}{2}$. The Market is very quiet.

HONGKONG TENNIS LEAGUE.

The following is the annual report:—

On behalf of the Committee I have much pleasure in presenting the Ninth Annual Report of the Tennis League.

There were two Divisions of the League during the previous season. The following Clubs constituted Division I:—

Vanguard, Hongkong Cricket Club (A), Chinese Recreation Club (A), University (A), Chinese Recreation Club (B), Chinese Recreation Club (C), Chinese Recreation Club (D), Chinese Recreation Club (E), Chinese Recreation Club (F), Chinese Recreation Club (G), Chinese Recreation Club (H), Chinese Recreation Club (I), Chinese Recreation Club (J), Chinese Recreation Club (K), Chinese Recreation Club (L), Chinese Recreation Club (M), Chinese Recreation Club (N), Chinese Recreation Club (O), Chinese Recreation Club (P), Chinese Recreation Club (Q), Chinese Recreation Club (R), Chinese Recreation Club (S), Chinese Recreation Club (T), Chinese Recreation Club (U), Chinese Recreation Club (V), Chinese Recreation Club (W), Chinese Recreation Club (X), Chinese Recreation Club (Y), Chinese Recreation Club (Z).

The following Clubs constituted Division II:—

Craigengower, Naval Yard, Civil Service, Ladies' Recreation Club, Kowloon Cricket Club (B), University (B), Chinese Recreation Club (A), Chinese Recreation Club (B), Chinese Recreation Club (C), Chinese Recreation Club (D), Chinese Recreation Club (E), Chinese Recreation Club (F), Chinese Recreation Club (G), Chinese Recreation Club (H), Chinese Recreation Club (I), Chinese Recreation Club (J), Chinese Recreation Club (K), Chinese Recreation Club (L), Chinese Recreation Club (M), Chinese Recreation Club (N), Chinese Recreation Club (O), Chinese Recreation Club (P), Chinese Recreation Club (Q), Chinese Recreation Club (R), Chinese Recreation Club (S), Chinese Recreation Club (T), Chinese Recreation Club (U), Chinese Recreation Club (V), Chinese Recreation Club (W), Chinese Recreation Club (X), Chinese Recreation Club (Y), Chinese Recreation Club (Z).

Two new Clubs, namely Kowloon Dock Yard, and Naval Yard, were welcomed to Division II. They took the places of Olympic and Wigwag who were unfortunately unable to enter teams owing to diminution in their membership. It is to be hoped that they will be able to enter this season.

It is to be regretted that some of the Clubs in Division II did not complete their fixtures, and the Committee feel that the extension of Club Secretaries should again be drawn to this in order that they may do their utmost to complete the fixtures later in future.

The Tennis in both Divisions of the League during the season reached a high standard of excellence which was maintained throughout the season, and although the Club de Recreio won the Championship of Division II comfortably, there was a hard fight for League honours in Division I.

The United Services Club, Chinese Recreation Club, and Kowloon Cricket Club (A) tied for 1st place and had to replay each other twice before the ultimate Championship went to the Chinese Recreation Club.

The shields were presented to the winners by Miss Ventris at the conclusion of a very successful Tennis afternoon on the Chinese Recreation Club ground, the members of which were at home for the occasion, and the thanks of the League were tendered to them for their hospitality.

Matches were played between the Winners and the Rest in each League. The Chinese Recreation Club lost to the Rest in Division I, the Club de Recreio, likewise losing the match against the Rest in Division II.

The accounts show a balance in hand of \$1,183.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Hongkong Cricket Club Pavilion on Thursday, April 11th, at 8 p.m.

The League tenders its thanks to Mr. C. Bernard Brown for kindly auditing the Accounts.

F. LINDSAY-WOODS, Acting Hon. Secretary.

ARMED ROBBERY AT HUNGHOM.

An armed robbery is reported to the Police to have taken place at 137, Wolu Street, Hunghom, last evening. It was stated that at about 9.30 p.m. six men, three of whom were armed with revolvers and the others with daggers, entered the shop and stole from a case in the counter \$50 in notes and coins. The alarm was raised by one of the folk who sounded the police whistle. The robbers ran away along Chatham Road and escaped by way of the railway path in the direction of Hongkok.

THE MAGISTRACY.

THEFT OF AN IRON CABLE.

A Chinese pleaded guilty when charged before Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe this morning, with stealing an iron cable from a coal yard in Yau-mat.

Serjt. Murphy said that, thieves of a similar nature was becoming epidemic in Yau-mat. The cable defendant stole was found concealed in a basket he carried whilst walking along Reclamation Street yesterday.

Mr. Wolfe imposed on the defendant a fine of \$5 with the alternative of fourteen days' hard labour.

A BANISHEE'S RETURN.

Before Mr. Wolfe this morning, a Chinese was charged with returning from banishment before his term was over.

Serjt. Pepperlaw said the defendant three years ago was banished for a term of 30 years. He had been banished three times already and had returned each time.

Defendant said he was sick and had returned to the Colony to be treated for his sickness.

The Magistrate:—But you know very well that even if you were sick you were not to return.

A sentence of one year's hard labour and four hours' strokes was passed.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

WHO SHALL DECIDE?

[To the Editor of the "China Mail."]

April 9.

SIR.—Your reprint from *Truth* regarding the matter of Herr Buchner, formerly Conductor of the Viceroy's Band in India, which appeared in your Saturday's issue is interesting because it brings to the fore a question on which nobody seems to be able to give convincing reasons for answering it yes or no. That question is, should Germans like Herr Buchner be treated as enemy subjects and dealt with accordingly?

The subject is particularly interesting to me because Herr Buchner was at one time a personal friend of mine and as such had a good insight into the man's character. As a family man Herr Buchner exhibited all the traits of an English gentleman, courteous and charming, he endeared himself to all with whom he came into contact, not the least with those officials with whom his appointment brought him into daily touch.

Now, Sir, I am as big a Hun hater as any in this part of the world and that being so it emphasizes the high minded character of Herr Buchner that I can describe him as I have done and if any further corroboration of what I have said about him is needed, surely it is forthcoming in the action of the Government of India itself, as described in the *Illustrated Times* brings me to my point.

I should like to hear the opinion of some of your readers on the subject. Should a man like Herr Buchner, after years of faithful service, be treated as an enemy, discharged from his appointment and interned? To those who care to reply it would be the more interesting if they would give reasons. Personally, I am unable to answer the question. My patriotism forbids the negative, neither can I find convincing reasons for the affirmative. I might add that Herr Buchner is not the only German in India who has been retained by the British Government. Mr. Pötel, an Executive Engineer of the P.W.D. was similarly treated and a question in this regard was asked some time ago in the House of Commons when Mr. Austen Chamberlain was Secretary of State for India. Nor need we go as far as India to find instances of this kind. Up till, at any rate, a year ago Herr Buck, the conductor of the Shanghai Municipal Band was retained and although he did not take an active part in the band performances he was still in receipt of a salary. And Herr Buck is just such a man as Herr Buchner. I might also add that I have certain reason for thinking that it is not only the British who have retained the services of German employees. I have certain grounds for thinking that a German firm in Shanghai has seen to it that a former British employee shall want for his bread and butter until peace is declared. I have no definite proof of this but existing circumstances point very much that way. And if my surmise is correct, should this man accept a retaining fee? He has given many years' good service to the firm before the war and they paid him a salary, which he could not justly expect to receive, starting with a new firm as a new hand.

I fear I have encroached upon your valuable space to an unwarranted extent but I think you will agree that the point is an interesting one and an expression of opinion with reasons for and against, can do no harm.

I am yours etc., DOUBTFUL.

KNOCKED DOWN BY A TRAM.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

Mr. E. D. C. Wolfe acted as the Coroner at the inquest on an unknown Chinese, supposed to be a beggar, who died as the result of a fracture of the skull caused by being knocked down by a tramcar at Praya East on the 25th ultimo.

The jury empanelled were Messrs. J. Graef (foreman), A. Lay and C. Gandall.

Dr. McKenny, Superintendent of the Government Civil Hospital, said the deceased was admitted to the hospital on the evening of the 25th ultimo in an unconscious condition. He had a wound on his left cheek and a fracture of the skull, from which he died the next morning. Witness made a post-mortem examination and found an extensive fracture at the base of the skull. In his opinion death was due to the fracture of the skull. The fracture might have been caused by knocking against any hard substance.

A Chinese tram driver said he was taking the car from Happy Return to Whitty Street on the evening of the fatality. After turning the head past the Kwong Sang Hoag godown, about 8 o'clock in the evening, he saw six or seven people, including the deceased, rush across the road to the sea-front. He rang the bell and put on the brakes. The brass hand rail of the car struck the deceased, knocking him down. Deceased fell outside the tracks. Witness got out of the car and lifted the deceased, who was unconscious, into a sitting position. Water was procured and dashed to his face reviving him to some extent. Witness was then told by the ticket inspector to proceed, which he did.

If asked by the Coroner witness said he had been a driver since October last year. He had been a conductor before. After further evidence the jury gave a verdict of "Death by misadventure."

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TOMBOLA

(IN AID OF WAR CHARITIES.)

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